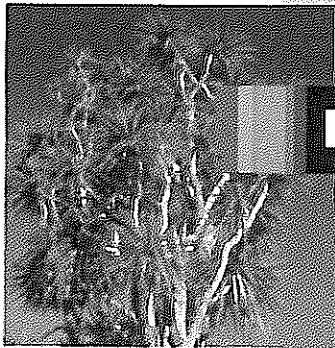


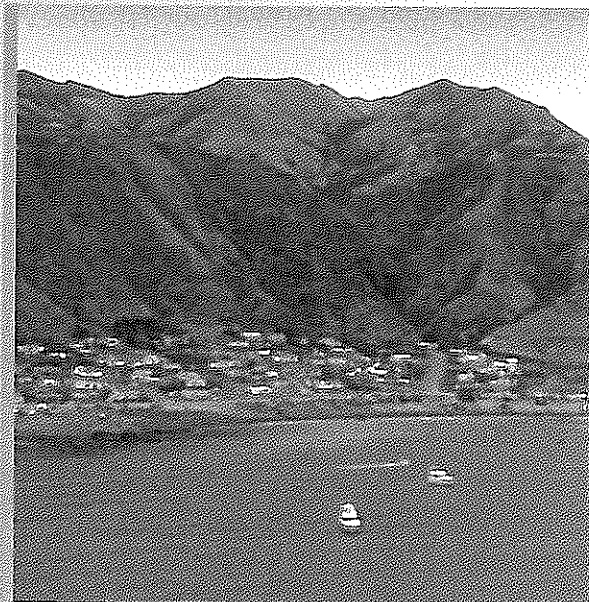
South Wairarapa District Council

October 2001



Rural Reserves

Management Plan



PREPARED BY



Pool photograph on front cover and fishing scene on page 19 by Grant Sheehan

APPROVAL

The Rural Reserves Management Plan has been prepared by the South Wairarapa District Council for the Rural Reserves it administers in terms of the procedures set down by Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. These reserves include those classified for recreation, scenic and local purpose reserves as defined under the Reserves Act 1977. The Council has statutory authority to approve the plan for all reserves in this plan except for the Whatarangi Scenic Reserve. This reserve is classified under Section 19(1)(b) of the Act.

A wide range of public consultations and agencies were consulted by Council during the drafting of the management plan and those submissions received when the draft plan was released for public comment have been incorporated where appropriate in the plan.

Attachment 1 includes the generic and specific policies in the plan that related to the Whatarangi Scenic Reserve. There was no public submissions received on the specific policies. The policies are appropriate to the classification of the scenic reserve.

I therefore approve pursuant to Section 41(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 the policies in the management plan for the Whatarangi Scenic Reserve.

Dated this 26th day of September 2001.



Jeff Flayell
Community Relations Manager
Department of Conservation
Wellington pursuant to a delegated authority
from the Minister of Conservation

1. Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for the management of rural reserves owned by the South Wairarapa District Council. The plan sets out the objectives, policies, and strategies for the management of these reserves, ensuring that they are maintained in a state of good health and are available for the enjoyment of the community.

The plan is based on the following principles:

- Reserves should be managed in a sustainable manner, ensuring that their natural and cultural values are preserved for future generations.
- Reserves should be managed in a way that is consistent with the Council's overall strategic goals and policies.
- Reserves should be managed in a way that is responsive to the needs and interests of the community.

The plan is intended to provide a clear and concise statement of the Council's intentions regarding the management of its rural reserves. It is intended to be a living document, which will be reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect changes in the Council's policies and the needs of the community.

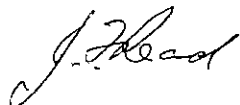
The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development of specific management plans for individual reserves. These plans will be developed in accordance with the principles and policies set out in this plan.

The plan is intended to provide a clear and concise statement of the Council's intentions regarding the management of its rural reserves. It is intended to be a living document, which will be reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect changes in the Council's policies and the needs of the community.

Foreword

The Rural Reserves Management Plan was approved by the Council on 30 July 2001. The Plan covers the South Wairarapa District's rural reserves, the majority of which are spread along the Tora and Palliser coasts and along the shores of Lake Onoke. They make a significant contribution to the District's coastal, lake and river areas as well as containing important natural, cultural and recreational features. Largely undeveloped, they provide an opportunity for the local community as well as visitors to the District to experience a wide range of recreational activities – particularly fishing, camping, swimming and walking, in a natural setting.

The Rural Reserves Management Plan sets out the policies for managing those recreational activities while at the same time protecting and enhancing the natural environment and amenity features on the reserves. Of key importance is the addressing of boat and vehicle access in the coastal environment, dune management, identifying camping areas, and controlling dogs as well as the development of facilities such as toilets which meet environmental standards and visitor needs.



John Read

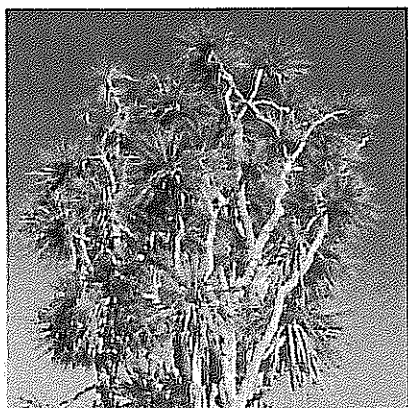
Mayor

8 October 2001

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Introduction

Background

Preparation of this document

Provisions of the Reserves Act 1977

Treaty of Waitangi

Links with other council plans, other
legislation and other agencies plans

Rural reserves included in this plan

Description of rural reserves

Background

The Rural Reserves Management Plan (Management Plan) provides for the management of recreation, scenic and local purpose reserves as defined under the Reserves Act 1977 that lie within the rural and coastal area of the South Wairarapa District. For the purposes of this plan they are referred to collectively as the rural reserves and comprise a total of 116 hectares. A map showing the location of all the reserves is on page 12.

Preparation of this Document

The information used in preparing the Management Plan has been gleaned from a desktop search using existing literature and discussions with key stakeholders including the Wellington Regional Council (WRC) and the Department of Conservation (DoC). The South Wairarapa District Council (the Council) received initial public submissions, carried out site visits and held public meetings to discuss the coastal reserves with interested community members. It also met with and received input from the Maori Standing Committee. The Reserves Management Working Party was widened to include representatives from key stakeholders. The Working Party oversaw the reserve classification process, which is a prerequisite to developing the Management Plan. The Management Plan has been reviewed following the public submission process and the Council consideration of the document. The amendments are included in this plan.

In preparing the Management Plan, the South Wairarapa District Council (the Council) assessed all its rural lands and identified all the areas that contribute to its parks and recreation function. However, Lake Wairarapa Domain has not been included in the Management Plan as a lead agency is being sought between DoC, the WRC and the Council for the future management and development of the wider area. The Council will continue to maintain the area while the issues are worked through.

The Management Plan is divided into five areas as follows: Introduction; Reserve Resources; Recreation; Management; and Stakeholders. The plan includes generic policies that pertain to all the rural reserves in the reserve network and reserve-specific policies for those reserves where issues were identified in the submission process. Reserve-specific policies are set out in a box.

A Schedule of Actions has been prepared which outlines further actions that are required to be undertaken to ensure the successful implementation of the policies in this plan (refer Appendix 1).

Provisions of the Reserves Act 1977

The purpose of the Reserves Act 1977 is to consolidate and amend earlier legislation affecting the Council's reserves and

to make further provision for their acquisition, control, management, maintenance, preservation (including the protection of the natural environment) development, and use, and to make provision for public access to the coastline and the countryside.

The Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 and provides the basis under which the Council must manage the reserves vested in it or where the Council has been appointed to manage and control them on behalf of the Crown. The vision statement, objectives and policies in the Management Plan are in line with the classification of each reserve.

The rural reserves include a range of classifications including Scenic (Section 19(1)(b)), Recreation (Section 17) and Local Purpose (Section 23).

Reserves classified Scenic are managed primarily to develop their scenic significance through

the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, so that they will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest.

Reserves classified Recreation are managed primarily for the purpose of

providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

Reserves classified Local Purpose are managed primarily for the purpose of

providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve.

For each Local Purpose Reserve a sub-classification is stipulated which specifies the primary purpose of the reserve. The sub-classifications for the reserves covered by this plan are 'Esplanade' and 'Community Buildings'.

Treaty of Waitangi

This plan aims to interpret and administer the Reserves Act 1977 to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the formulation and implementation of the Council's reserves management policy as required under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987. The Council is committed to effective ongoing consultation with iwi. All policies pertaining to the rural reserves are reviewed by the Maori Standing Committee, which includes representatives of local iwi.

Links with other Legislation, other Council Plans and other Agencies' Plans

A number of other Acts which provide for the protection of the coastal environment, heritage protection and managing recreational opportunities may also affect how the Council plans and manages its reserves. Some of these Acts include the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Conservation Act 1987, New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, Wildlife Act 1953, Biosecurity Act 1993, Historic Places Act 1993 and Environment Act 1986. The objectives and policies associated with this plan are in compliance with these Acts.

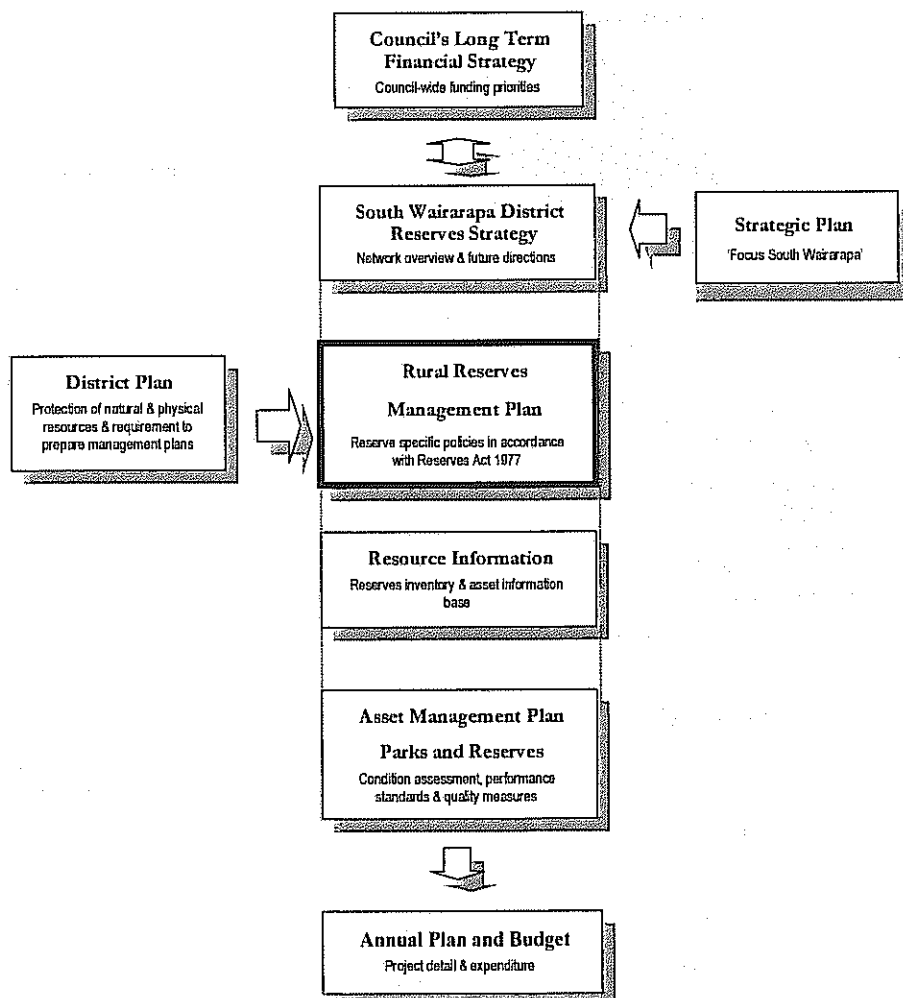
For instance, the South Wairarapa District Plan (District Plan), which is prepared in accordance with the RMA, guides the activities that affect the use of the District's reserves as well as the protection of the natural and physical resources on the reserves. Policy 5.10.2 in the District Plan also makes provision for the preparation of management plans for all of the reserves owned by the Council, or under its control, and encourages public participation in the development of management planning objectives and policies.

The objectives and policies in the Management Plan are also complementary to the Key Directions outlined in the South Wairarapa District Reserves Strategy (Reserves Strategy). The Reserves Strategy considers the overall reserve network from a strategic perspective and provides the Key Directions under which the Council will manage and develop its reserves portfolio, including its rural reserves, in context of the District's natural and physical resources and the social and economic environment.

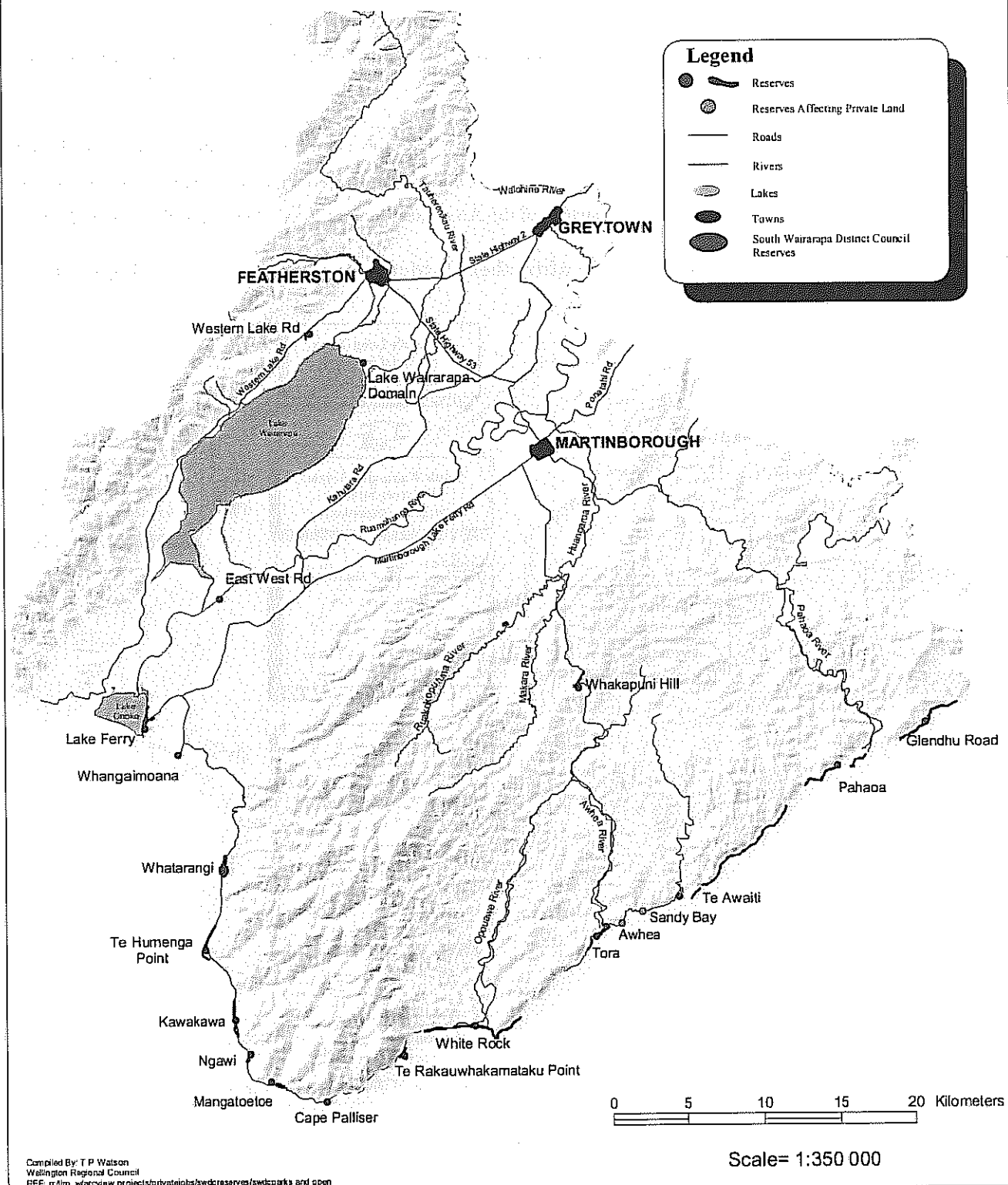
Figure 1 below identifies the links the Management Plan has with the Reserves Strategy and with other Council planning documents such as the Long Term Financial Strategy and the Asset Management Plan – Parks and Reserves (AMP).

Relationship with other District Council Plans

Figure. 1



South Wairarapa District Council Rural Reserves covered by this plan



Rural Reserves Included in this Plan

All the reserves and land included in this plan are shown in the Map on the following page. They include:

Lake Ferry Recreation Reserves, Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve and Local Purpose (Escarpment) Reserve

Glendhu Road Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Kahutara Road Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Kawakawa Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Mangatoetoe Coastal Recreation Reserve and Mangatoetoe Recreation Reserve

Ngawi Coastal Recreation Reserve and Ngawi Recreation Reserve and Ngawi Community Buildings Reserve

Pahaoa Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Te Awaite Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves

Te Awaite Recreation Reserves

Te Humenga Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Te Rakauwhakamataku Coastal Recreation Reserve

Tora Recreation Reserves

Western Lake Road Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve

Whatarangi Scenic Reserve

White Rock Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve

Areas of land that will be included in the Rural Reserves Management Plan once management issues for those areas of land are resolved include:

Awhea Recreation Area

East-West Recreation Area

Sandy Bay Recreation Area

Whakapuni Hill Reserve

White Rock Picnic Area

Palliser Road Road-End Carpark, Whangaimoana Road-End, and Lake Ferry River Mouth, while not reserves under the Reserves Act 1977, are also included in the Management Plan.

A schedule of the legal status of all reserve lands is attached (refer Appendix 2). Copies of plans of the settlement reserves at Lake Ferry, Ngawi, Mangatoetoe and Whatarangi are attached (refer Appendix 3). A list of facilities, amenities and some important plantings for all the rural reserves is included in the AMP.

Description of Rural Reserves

A major feature of the rural reserves is that nearly all of them are located along the District's 124 km coastline. It is a diverse and appealing landscape ranging from the wide open expanse of Palliser Bay in the south-west to the rugged and varied coastline in the south-east consisting of vertical cliffs, boulder beaches and narrow rock platforms. All the coastal reserves except those within the settlements are located in the Coastal Protection Policy Area as identified in the District Plan. The District Plan also sets out the type of development that may occur within this area.

For the purposes of this resource statement the majority of the reserves have been looked at collectively in three distinct geographical areas: Lake Ferry Reserves; Palliser Coast Reserves (from Whatarangi to Cape Palliser); and the Tora Coast Reserves (from Cape Palliser to Glendhu). Many of them are adjacent to nationally important areas managed by DoC, such as the Pinnacles, and land owned by Maori who have taken measures to bring recreation issues under control. A number of the reserves contain archaeological sites and important heritage sites particularly around

Lake Ferry and on the reserves on the foreshore. However further work to identify and protect these is required.

LAKE FERRY RESERVES (LAKE ONOKE)

These reserves include the Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve (including the motorcamp), the Recreation and Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves on the edge of Lake Onoke, and the Local Purpose (Escarpment) Reserve (Lot 15) at the entrance to Lake Ferry Settlement. The Lake Ferry River Mouth is also included in the Draft Management Plan (refer Appendix 3, Lake Ferry Settlement Plan).

History and Management

From early times Lake Onoke was a major source of food and materials for tangata whenua. During winter the outlet from Lake Onoke was kept open by the natural flow of water. However, in the summer it would close due to sand build up, and flood a large area that had been converted to farmland.

The opening and closure of the outlet and flood control measures of the extensive wetland area brought significant changes and eventually led to the development of extensive farmland in the area. Prior to the development of a road network, ferries were used to convey passengers from one side of the lake to the other and the government set land aside for this purpose. This land now comprises most of the Lake Ferry reserves. The management of the reserves has changed with the changes to local government administration over the years with management passing to the Council in 1989.

Physical/Landscape Characteristics

Most of the reserves front onto Lake Onoke which is a 650 ha brackish lake at the mouth of the Ruamahanga River. The lake is separated from Palliser Bay by a 3-km-long shingle spit, which is naturally breached by rising lake levels or cut artificially to reduce the danger of flooding nearby farmland. Lake Onoke adjoins Lake Wairarapa, and together these wetlands are the largest in the lower North Island and are of national importance (DoC, 1996). The wetlands are regularly used by native birds including five threatened species as well as over 10,000 waterfowl. For long periods the lake is tidal, but in southerly conditions combined with a low river flow, the sea outlet becomes blocked. The lakeside reserves are therefore subject to erosion caused by the changing levels of the lake. The area is very open

with a few stands of mature trees including macrocarpa, pines, pohutakawa and ngaio planted along the foreshore.

Recreational Facilities, Amenities and Use

The reserves include a camping ground as well as picnic facilities for visitors wishing to explore recreational opportunities, such as walking, picnicking, and fishing, that the lake and adjacent coastline offer. They are located on one of the main access points to Palliser Bay. The reserve at the entrance to the settlement is a steep hillside paddock used for grazing and provides panoramic views over Lake Onoke and its outlet to the ocean. The outlet itself is a major scenic attraction for visitors to the area. Whitebait, flounder, eels, perch and brown trout all provide a significant recreational fishery while the wetlands provide wildlife viewing. Lake Onoke is also used for wind-surfing.

PALLISER COAST RESERVES

These reserves include recreation, scenic and local purpose reserves in the coastal settlements of Whatarangi, Mangatoetoe and Ngawi (refer Appendix 3 for plans of settlement reserves) as well as local purpose esplanade reserves at Te Humenga Point and Kawakawa. The Palliser Road Road-End Carpark and Whangaimoana Road-End have also been identified as areas for reserve management purposes. The Palliser Coast has been recognised as nationally important for tourism due to its geological and other attractions such as the Pinnacles, Kupe's Sail, and the seal breeding colony.

History and Management

Maori tradition records the coastline was occupied as early as 950 AD by Kupe and many place-names are still in use from this time. The first European sighting of the area was in 1770 by Captain Cook who named the headland Cape Palliser.

The Palliser Coast Reserves contain a significant number of cultural and historic sites. The most common sites are middens and ovens, while stone wall complexes are numerous on the coastal flats. Detailed knowledge on location, definition and protection needs of archaeological sites, including urupa, in the District are limited.

Many of the reserves have been established as a result of coastal subdivisions and are located in and adjacent to coastal settlements.

Physical/Landscape Characteristics

Most of the reserves are strung along a rugged coastline with steep hilly backdrops particularly at Whatarangi, boulder-strewn beaches and rock platforms with narrow dunes on short segments from Te Humenga Point to Otakaha Stream North of Ngawi and at Te Kawakawa Rocks. Many of them are subject to coastal erosion. Some of the reserves are in the settlements and are largely undeveloped.

The dunes south of Te Humenga Point contain a rare pingao/spinifex and the area around Cape Palliser contains breeding sites of variable oystercatcher, banded dotterel and red-billed gull. The main breeding colony of New Zealand fur seal in the North Island is at Matakītiki-a-Kupe and on the immediately adjacent coastline (DoC, 1996).

There are also a number of New Zealand plants of botanical significance which are only found in the Cape Palliser region such as: *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Austrofestuca littoralis*, *Desmoschoenus spiralis* and the coastal rock tussock *Chionochloa beddiei*.

Recreational Facilities, Amenities and Use

The Palliser Coast Reserves provide important access points to the sea for recreational fishing and observing wildlife including the nearby seal-breeding colony. There are a number of picnic spots on the reserves with some basic toilets, picnic facilities and a children's playground at Ngawi. No camping is permitted on this part of the coast.

TORA COAST RESERVES

These reserves are situated along the coastline from Te Rakauwhakamataku Point to the south, which is only accessible by foot, to Glendhu Road in the north (refer Figure 2 – Map of Rural Reserves).

History and Management

The Council acquired some of these reserves as a result of subdivision of Tora Station in 1975. The road to Tora was formed by the American Services during World War II for communication purposes. Archaeological surveys in the 1970s identified that some of the reserves contain significant cultural heritage sites.

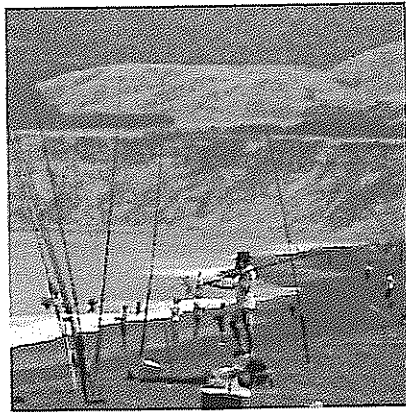
However, these require further research to verify location, definition and protection requirements.

Physical/Landscape Characteristics

The reserves comprise a series of coastal strips of varying widths with a mixture of dune land, sand and shingle beaches, rocky outcrops, grassy level terraces, and river and stream mouth estuaries. There are few coastal plantings with a predominance of marram grass, lupins and matagouri. There are significant limestone outcrops adjacent to the White Rock Local Purpose Esplanade Reserves and Picnic Area. Native flora includes *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, pingao and spinifex in the Pahaoa area, with some kowhai, karaka, mahoe and flax in other areas particularly around the streams. There is considerable scouring along the foreshore that encroaches on the reserves. Sheep and cattle also graze parts of the area, and this has caused damage to the dune environment.

Recreational Facilities, Amenities and Use

The reserves are a popular destination for fishing and other coastal-based activities including surfing, walking and enjoying the wild nature of the coast. Visitors to the area can also access the back-country in 4x4 drive vehicles, on mountain bikes and by foot. The Council provides limited facility camping in the Tora and Te Awaiti areas, which are very popular over the summer period. There is increasing pressure on the existing facilities as visitors to the area increase. Freedom camping is popular, especially along other parts of the coast. Limited facilities on other reserves in the area include toilets and picnic areas. Unrestricted access to the coast particularly from boat-launching and undefined walking tracks has resulted in damage to the dune environment.



Vision and Objectives

Introduction

Vision Statement

Objectives

Introduction

The vision statement and objectives for the rural reserves identify the outcomes that are sought in managing the natural, cultural, scenic, recreational and amenity values of the reserves. Given the nature and classification of the reserves, the objectives and policies are largely generic with reserve-specific policies included where these pertain to specific reserve issues identified in the management planning process.

Vision Statement

enhanced open space and recreational opportunities that maximise use and enjoyment of the rural reserves for the wider community while protecting their natural, cultural and landscape values.

Objectives

RESERVE RESOURCES

1. To conserve and enhance natural, cultural and landscape features of the reserves giving priority to those within the coastal and lake environment.
2. To identify and protect native flora and fauna, habitats and landforms on the reserves.
3. To identify, maintain and conserve cultural heritage sites on the reserves.

RECREATION

1. To provide a mix of complementary recreational opportunities that are compatible with the conservation objectives of this plan.
2. To provide facilities and amenities, and improve access to enable the community to take advantage of the reserves natural, cultural and recreational opportunities.

MANAGEMENT

1. To manage and develop the coastal reserves in a manner that complements and enhances the landscape features of the District's significant coastline.

2. To create a cohesive and integrated reserves network that is developed in context of the natural and cultural resources of the area and other public land managed by other agencies.
3. To manage the reserves in line with community needs, integrating amenity values with recreational use and development and, to the extent possible within the resources available, develop the reserves in line with community aspirations.
4. To protect cultural heritage sites from any adverse effects that may arise from the development and use of the reserves.
5. To actively promote the reserves as local and regional recreational resources providing access to a wide variety of recreational experiences.
6. To interpret the reserves' natural and cultural heritage so as to increase understanding of their intrinsic worth and develop respect for them by those accessing the areas.

STAKEHOLDERS

1. To work with other agencies, iwi, hapu, private landowners and the community to ensure integrated and cost-effective management of the reserves and to enhance recreational opportunities and improve protection of the natural, cultural and landscape features of the reserves.



Reserve Resources

Natural resources

Cultural resources

Landscape features

1. Natural Resources

1.1 POLICIES

1.1.1 Database

- 1) A database of natural resources within and adjacent to the Council's reserves will be maintained as part of ongoing management of the reserves.

1.1.2 Land Stability and Dune Management

- 1) All native flora and fauna, habitats and landforms are protected in the dune and foreshore areas. Modification to these systems caused by the construction of access routes may be permitted where these are essential for the protection of the coastal area.
- 2) Erosion-prone areas will be identified and monitored and, where significant degradation is occurring from other natural processes, erosion control techniques will be assessed and cost effective solutions applied.
- 3) The impact of grazing, camping, and boat access ways on vegetation and the dune environment will be monitored and controlled.

Explanation:

A number of recreational activities such as walking and launching boats can impact on the natural environment. Dune damage has occurred on the Tora Recreation Reserves. Measures including fencing-off stock and defining and managing public access points through the vulnerable areas need to be put in place.

The Council notes that dunes in the Te Humenga Point area are worthy of protection and that this matter will be addressed if and when subdivision occurs in the future.

- 4) Natural erosion affecting coastal and lakeside reserves will not be hindered unless it is cost-effective and there are clear public benefits.
- 5) Where roads, park structures and access points are affected, these will be relocated away from such areas.
- 6) In areas subject to erosion where no other access points are available access points will be managed to ensure safe access to the beach.

Explanation:

There is evidence of natural and physical erosion on particular reserves, including Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve, through the effects of changing water levels and wave action. Uncontrolled vehicle access can also cause considerable damage to sensitive areas. Some of the reserves need further assessment and remedial action taken such as at Tora Recreation Reserves and Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve.

Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve

- 1) The deposits of driftwood along the northern foreshore of the reserve will be left as part of erosion protection against wave action from the lake. Some areas may be cleared to maintain access points to the water's edge.

Tora North Reserve

- 1) The Council will address dune erosion issues arising from existing access points.
- 2) The control of dune erosion will be achieved by having limited controlled access points along the dunes. Access to the rest of the dune system will be restricted by fencing. Fencing along access roads will provide for carparking and stiles will be provided. These matters will be addressed in the Development Concept Plan for the Tora Coast Reserves.
- 3) The impacts of access, camping and carparking on the dunes at Tora will be monitored.
- 4) Foot access only will be permitted along the Tora North Reserve. The Council will rehabilitate the two existing access sites.

Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve

- 1) The Council may, for emergency purposes, use the Blue Disc area at the southern most end of the Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve adjacent to Whatarangi Point, to store fill for emergency road repairs and erosion control works on the Whatarangi cliff face.
- 2) The flat area forming the carpark will be used for such purposes and include the flat area formed between the south of the fence line and the foot of the small hill.
- 3) The regenerating bush area adjacent to the stream will be fenced off.
- 4) The area shall be kept clean and tidy when not in use for emergency purposes.

Explanation:

The cliffs at the southern end of the Whatarangi settlement are subject to erosion particularly following storms. In emergency circumstances the Council may be required to use the Blue Disc area on the Coastal Recreation Reserve to store fill for works on the cliffs and road.

1.1.3 Protection and Enhancement of Indigenous Vegetation, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats

- 1) Existing areas of indigenous vegetation on the reserves will be identified and threats assessed. These areas will be maintained and enhanced.
- 2) Pest and weed eradication plans will be developed and the removal of pests and weed species prioritised. The plans will clearly identify the areas and species to be controlled, and how.
- 3) Native revegetation plans for the reserves will be developed as resources permit.
- 4) Indigenous plants propagated from local sources within the ecological district of the coastal areas will be used.

- 5) Research to identify wildlife and wildlife habitats on and adjacent to the reserves will be carried out as the need arises and as resources permit and in association with other agencies.
- 6) Sensitive habitats when identified, will be buffered from public access using native plants and natural barriers where appropriate.
- 7) Habitats will be monitored to assess impacts from recreational use of the reserves. Issues arising will be addressed through developing further policies within this management plan.
- 8) Access for motorised vehicles will be controlled to avoid impact on wildlife habitats and sensitive plant communities.
- 9) Reserves containing important wildlife habitats will be monitored for impacts from domestic animals to ensure protection of wildlife.
- 10) Existing areas of indigenous vegetation on the reserves will be maintained and enhanced.

Explanation:

Some of the coastal reserves provide access to seal colonies and bird breeding areas. Others contain fragile remnants of indigenous coastal vegetation. As recreational use of the area increases there is a need to raise public awareness of the sensitivities of natural areas and monitor these for any impacts that may arise. Domestic animals such as dogs and cats either brought onto a reserve or in adjacent settlements can impact on wildlife.

Whatarangi Coastal Recreation and Scenic Reserves

- 1) Priority will be given to the eradication of goats from all the Whatarangi reserves.
- 2) A revegetation programme for the Whatarangi Scenic Reserve will be established to protect the area from erosion, to enable native regeneration to occur and to enhance the backdrop to Whatarangi settlement

Explanation:

Goats currently graze the Whatarangi escarpment, recreation reserves and adjacent land preventing the establishment and regeneration of native vegetation and plants on the escarpment and foreshore.

1.1.4 Management of Exotics

- 1) The planting of exotics, where they assist with regeneration of natives, may be considered to assist the revegetation process.
- 2) Exotic trees will be replaced over the longer term unless they have special merit.

1.1.5 Amenity Planting

- 1) A list of suitable indigenous plant species will be established for general planting purposes for the rural reserves.
- 2) Development/Improvement Plans will include a planting plan for amenity areas along with a list of suitable plant species.
- 3) Native specimen trees will be used for amenity planting instead of exotics.
- 4) Where shelter-belts, such as macrocarpa, have been planted to manage wind and erosion these will be maintained but will be removed in the longer term once native plantings have taken over their function.
- 5) Amenity planting in settlement areas will take into account the urban influence and natives such as pohutukawa that are *not* endemic to the area but are still representative of the indigenous New Zealand landscape character may be introduced.

1.1.6 Damage to or Removal of Plant Material

- 1) Unauthorised damage to, or removal of, plant material is prohibited.
- 2) Collection of specimens may be authorised for essential management purposes or for approved scientific or educational study which will contribute to the general knowledge available on the reserves.
- 3) There shall be no removal of native trees or clearing of native vegetation within reserves except where there is danger to the public or in other exceptional circumstances.

1.1.7 Fire Control

- 1) No open fires will be permitted on the rural reserves at any time.

Explanation:

There is a general fire ban in the coastal area over the summer. It is necessary to prohibit open fires, including braziers, because of the damage caused to bush and marram grass on sand dunes. The availability and relatively low cost of gas barbecues allows for open air cooking with minimal risk of fire.

2. Cultural Resources

2.1 POLICIES

2.1.1 Identification and Protection

- 1) The Council will pursue the identification and protection of cultural heritage sites on the reserves.
- 2) Interpretation of cultural heritage sites will be included in the future development of the reserves where appropriate. In the above cases, the Council will consult with the NZHPT where appropriate
- 3) Archaeological surveys may be undertaken on discovery of evidence and before any significant development takes place.
- 4) Where archaeological sites may be accidentally discovered: the following protocol will be followed:

Accidental Discovery Protocol

If any archaeological sites are uncovered during physical works the South Wairarapa District Council will require the contract manager to adopt the following protocol. Evidence of archaeological sites can include oven stones, charcoal, shell middens, ditches, banks, pits, building foundations, artefacts of Maori and European origin or human burials.

1. Work shall cease immediately at that place.
2. The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area and advise the contract manager.
3. The contract manager shall notify the Central Region Archaeologist of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and if necessary the appropriate consent process shall be initiated.

4. The contract manager shall notify <insert appropriate iwi groups> to determine what further actions are appropriate to safeguard the site or its contents.
5. If skeletal remains are uncovered the contract manager shall advise the Police.
6. Works on the site shall not resume until the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the Police (if skeletal remains are involved) and <insert appropriate iwi groups> have each given the appropriate approval for work to continue.

Explanation:

Under the Historic Places Act 1993, all archaeological sites (within the meaning of the Act) are afforded statutory protection. This applies to unrecorded archaeological sites that may be accidentally uncovered. If there is 'reasonable cause' to suspect an archaeological site may be modified, damaged or destroyed in the course of any activity, an archaeological authority is required from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. An authority is required whether or not the land on which an archaeological site may be present is designated, or a resource or building consent has been granted, or the activity is permitted by a district or regional plan.

- 5) Siting of facilities and services will be done to avoid impact on archaeological and traditional sites.
- 6) All significant archaeological sites on the reserves will be assessed for preservation purposes and the future of the sites will be agreed with iwi and hapu.
- 7) The Council will consult with iwi and hapu on any activities that are likely to disturb or impact on sites of cultural significance.
- 8) Persons found damaging archaeological sites may be prosecuted for offences under the Historic Places Act 1993.

Explanation:

There are a number of archaeological sites registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) on some of the reserves particularly at, Te Humenga Point, Mangatoetoe, Whatarangi, Glendhu Road and Pabaoa. There is also a historic area, Matakita-A-Kupe, registered under the Historic Places Act 1993, which includes the Mangatoetoe reserves.

However, not all heritage sites are known and knowledge of sensitive sites such as waahi tapu may have restricted access. A more comprehensive study is required of cultural heritage sites on the reserves and this will be done in conjunction with the District Plan Review process to ensure sites are listed in the District Plan. Some sites may be kept on a silent file due to their sensitive nature.

Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve

- 1) Priority will be given to investigating and interpreting the history of Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve.

Explanation:

There are a number of places of historical interest dating from the time of both pre- and post- European settlement including Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve. Further identification and interpretation is required on its history to enhance visitor awareness and to ensure protection of sites

2.1.2 Traditional Land Use

- 1) Provision may be made for iwi and hapu to continue camping and gathering kai moana for cultural purposes on the reserves under special arrangement.
- 2) Mechanisms for managing Maori custodial rights in the area will be explored with iwi and hapu where it affects reserves.

Explanation:

Tangata whenua have a long association with the South Wairarapa coastline including the reserves. The area is used by local iwi and hapu as a food gathering area and contains sites of cultural significance. There are two taiapure designations on the coast. The first is at Te Kopi and extends out from the coast from the mouth of Hurupi Stream to the mouth of Twin Creeks. The second is at Te Humenga and extends out from Makotukutuku Stream to Te Humenga Point.

3. Landscape Features

3.1 POLICIES

3.1.1 Identification and Protection

- 1) A database of important landscape features on, and adjacent to, the reserves will be noted in a register.
- 2) The Council will protect the natural character of the coastal environment and its ecosystems within the coastal reserve network.
- 3) The establishment of reserve facilities will take into account the sensitive nature of the landscape settings in rural reserves.
- 4) Landscape Plans will be prepared for any proposed development or extension of building, access or other constructions on a reserve. They will include planting, screening, colour of structures, etc. appropriate to the site.
- 5) Reclamation of any foreshore on a reserve may only be permitted where there is no negative impact on the reserve, where recreational activities will be enhanced and there are environmental benefits.

Explanation:

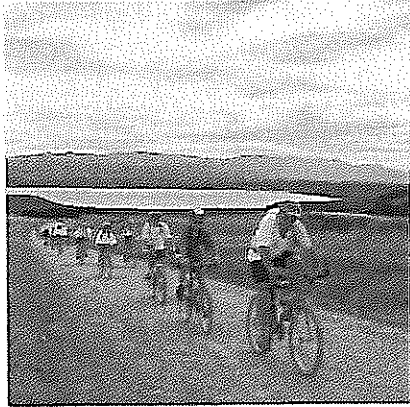
Some of the reserves contain, or are adjacent to, unique landforms particularly at Mangatoetoe and Kupe's Sail. It is important to record these so that any future development will recognise and enhance their presence. There are also significant landscape features and escarpments that provide a backdrop to settlements and the surrounding country such as at Whatarangi. The long-term benefits of improving the quality of these areas should be recognised and carried out over time. Any development on the foreshore must comply with the District Plan.

Mangatoetoe Coastal Recreation Reserve

- 1) Priority will be given to developing a Landscape Plan for Mangatoetoe Coastal Recreation Reserve as an area that demonstrates the benefits of maintaining and enhancing coastal reserves in their natural settings and indigenous character.

Explanation:

Mangatoetoe Coastal Recreation Reserve is located in a rugged coastal environment with a seal colony in the area. It is important to maintain the quality and character of this reserve given its proximity to the regionally significant Kupe's Sail Reserve (DoC). It is also part of the Matakaitaki-A-Kupe Historic Area classified by the NZHPT under section 49(1) of the Historic Place Act 1993.



Recreation

Recreational Use

4. Recreational Use

4.1 POLICIES

4.1.1 Activities – General

- 1) The Council will promote and encourage a range of recreational activities within the reserves network where these do not have an adverse affect on the environment, other established recreational activities or on neighbours.
- 2) Provision will be made primarily for informal, low-impact recreational activities such as picnicking, walking and camping.
- 3) High-impact recreational activities may be catered for where these do not have adverse effects on the reserves.

Explanation:

The reserves provide for a range of recreational activities with the most common being, picnicking, walking, swimming, camping, fishing and boating. These activities all impact on the reserves through: litter left by visitors to the area; fouling by dogs; damage to natural areas by indiscriminate use of vehicles; and possible health hazards from fouling and disposal of waste. The range of activities needs to be managed to prevent further damage to sensitive environments and to ensure enjoyment of the reserves by visitors.

4.1.2 Pedestrian and Vehicle Access

- 1) Access to reserves for recreation purposes will be maintained and improved.
- 2) Access points to reserves will be clearly signposted.
- 3) Foot access will be the primary form of access within reserves.
- 4) Carparks will be clearly defined.
- 5) Motor vehicle access will be controlled to avoid impact on natural and cultural features, sensitive habitats, and recreational activities.
- 6) Access points to the water will be controlled where necessary to minimise conflicting uses and to prevent damage to natural ecosystems and cultural heritage sites.
- 7) Where public access from reserves affects private land formal access agreements with landowners will be entered into (refer Policy 5.1.5).

- 8) Special access arrangements within the reserves may be made for events.

Explanation:

Increasing access to some of the reserves by trail bikes, motor vehicles, mountain bikes and horses may contribute to coastal erosion and damage to natural ecosystems and cultural heritage sites. Open access to all the reserves by foot, vehicular access, mountain bikes and horses can cause conflicts and will be managed by providing alternative sites for conflicting recreational activities. Further discussion is required to manage public access issues affecting both Maori land and Riddiford Station.

Te Awaiti and Tora Recreation Reserves

- 1) Access issues north of Te Awaiti camping area will be addressed with the landowners as part of the operational management of Te Awaiti camping site.

Te Awaiti Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves

- 1) Access to the Te Awaiti Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves adjacent to the Riddiford Estate at Te Awaiti will be in accordance with the Riddiford, Council and Crown Agreement as set out in Appendix 6.

Cape Palliser to White Rock

- 1) The Council will place a sign at the road end advising of the need to remain on the track and the requirement to avoid private property.

Explanation:

Free public access to the coastal road beyond Cape Palliser is at the goodwill of the landowners and is restricted to access by foot or bicycle.

Further research is required on the status of the road in this area to establish what is formal and what is paper road, and what is private land. This work is likely to be done as part of Policy 4.1.7 Coastal Walkway.

Whangaimoana Road-End Reserve

- 1) Vehicle access and parking in this area will be developed to protect the dune area and control/manage vehicle access to, and on, the beach.

4.1.3 Boat-Launching

- 1) Existing boat access points will be maintained for recreational use.
- 2) The Council will identify all public boat-launching facilities on the coastal reserves.
- 3) Launching of commercial boats and the parking of boats, boat-trailers, tractors or other boat-launching equipment used for commercial purposes will generally not be allowed from reserves. Any applications will be considered in terms of Policy 5.1.7.
- 4) Boats used for commercial purposes are required to have a formal licence to use the Te Awaiti Reserve launching site.
- 5) A charge, or services in-lieu of a charge, such as site maintenance including grounds, will be applied to all commercial licences.
- 6) The Council will establish bylaws to control boat-launching operations on its reserves.

Explanation:

Under the Reserves Act 1977 commercial boat operators are not permitted to use boat-launching facilities on the Council's reserves for commercial fishing, diving or any other commercial activity. Under the Reserves Act 1977 reserves can only be used for public recreational activities. Further, damage to boat-launching areas on the reserves has been exacerbated by commercial boat operators. Commercial boat operators should use boat-launching facilities on private land.

Tora North Reserve

- 1) The southern boat-launching site that is adversely affecting the dune-land on the Tora North Reserve will be closed (refer Policy 1.1.2).

Ngawi Coastal Reserve

- 1) The issue affecting commercial boat launching at Ngawi will be investigated and a further report put to the Council.

Explanation:

The section of Ngawi beach used for boat launching gives access to the only safe harbour along the Palliser Coast and for safety, commercial, social, environmental and traditional use reasons the future management of the area needs to be considered. The agency responsible for managing the activity also needs to be defined and management options explored.

4.1.4 Providing for Special Needs

- 1) Access to recreational opportunities and facilities will be provided in the reserves, as far as possible, for people with disabilities and other members of the community with special needs.

4.1.5 Horses, Mountain Bikes and Motorized Off-Road Vehicles

- 1) The use of trail bikes and other motorised off-road vehicles within reserves is prohibited except on formed roads, vehicle access routes, designated areas and carparks.
- 2) The use of mountain bikes and horses is restricted to formed and unformed roads, tracks and open grass areas.

Explanation:

The primary recreational use of the reserves is low-impact recreation. While responsive to the changing recreational needs of the public, the Council seeks to minimise conflicts between activities and curtail activities that cause environmental degradation or significant modification or nuisance, including nuisance to adjoining properties.

4.1.6 Tracks and Trails

- 1) Tracks and trails on reserves will be clearly marked.
- 2) Tracks and trails will be managed in consultation with iwi, hapu and private landowners.

- 3) Where appropriate, reserves will provide vehicle parking and information to the public wishing to access tracks and trails on private or public land.

Explanation:

Marked tracks and trails help avoid conflict on private land. Private landowners and DoC also have tracks, which are open to the public particularly at Tora.

Whatarangi Scenic Reserve

- 1) An assessment of the impact of a public access track on the stability of the Whatarangi escarpment will be undertaken prior to considering public access.

Explanation:

There is potential for recreational tracks to be developed on escarpment reserves, for example at Whatarangi, to give access to expansive coastal views. However, issues of public safety and land stability need to be addressed first.

4.1.7 Coastal Walkway

- 1) The Council will investigate developing a walkway from Cape Palliser lighthouse to Honeycomb Rocks.
- 2) The Council will look at developing the Palliser Road Road-End Carpark and White Rock and Te Rakauwhakamataku Point reserves in context of wider trail opportunities.

Explanation:

Developing the Cape Palliser Walkway will promote the use of the Council's coastal reserves at Cape Palliser and White Rock and improve access to the coast generally. Establishing a trail will involve negotiations with private landowners.

There is a need for further research to be undertaken to identify the legal status of the land to be included in the proposed Coastal Walkway and also to investigate the extent to which natural erosion has removed reserve land at Te Raukauwhakamataku Point. The latter may be done by use of aerial photograph and satellite imagery.

4.1.8 Camping and Overnight Stays

- 1) Limited facility camping will be allowed in designated areas for a maximum of two weeks. Designated areas include Tora and Te Awaite

Reserves, Sandy Bay Camping Area, Awhea Camping Area and East-West Recreation Area.

- 2) No camping is permitted on the Council's reserves from Whangaimoana to Cape Palliser.
- 3) Charges will be made for camping and a permit system may be introduced.
- 4) Camping numbers on reserves will be restricted during periods of heavy use.
- 5) Disposal points to empty chemical toilets will be investigated and developed.

Explanation:

Camping over busy periods requires a number of extra services including rubbish collection, rangers, toilet cleaning, etc. A contribution to the cost of these services will be made through fees collected from campers. A permit system would enable information to be gained on the numbers and locations of coastal campers and for civil defence purposes.

- 6) Bylaws controlling camping will be established for the reserves.
- 7) Campers must use chemical toilets, which must be emptied into the Council's waste disposal points. Latrines and long-drops are prohibited.
- 8) Caravans and tents shall be sited within marked areas and shall remain clear of any tree, shrub, or protection screen around seedlings.
- 9) The Council will actively encourage the establishment of privately run camping facilities.
- 10) Walk-in camping will be allowed at Te Rakauwhakamataku Point.

Explanation:

There has been a tradition of free camping, including overnight and longer-term stays, on the Council's reserves and adjacent private land in the District. Current facilities are inadequate and have caused some concern to private property owners and the Council, particularly regarding sewage and waste disposal, and the impact on the natural environment of lengthy stays. By specifying set areas and lengths of stay for camping the Council is addressing these issues. At limited-facility camping areas the Council will provide sewage and rubbish disposal and water (where available).

Tora Coast

- 1) Self-contained camping, including caravans and tents with chemical toilets and water, may be permitted at defined areas on the Tora Coast.
- 2) The Council will assess the Tora Coast for future camping opportunities and development.

Explanation:

A commercially run camping facility is needed in the Tora area to alleviate the pressure on reserves. Ideally the coastal area should be left for day-use and picnickers.

4.1.9 Campervans

- 1) Campervans that display a self-contained certificate may stay on any Council rural reserve carpark for a maximum of two nights.

Explanation:

The New Zealand Standard DZ5465 "Self Containment of Caravans and Motor Caravans" defines what is required for a campervan to be self-contained (refer Appendix 4 for a copy of this standard) (Note this Standard is currently being finalised by SANZ and will be added to the Management Plan when it has been completed).

- 2) The Council will work with the Campervan Association to develop waste disposal points and services for campervans.
- 3) That subject to being cost effective a nightly charge may be made for campervans using Council reserves.

Explanation:

At the present time the Council does not believe charges for campervans is cost effective but may review matters in the future as the rural reserves are developed and use increases.

4.1.10 Dogs

- 1) Dogs must be under control at all times.
- 2) Campers are prohibited from having dogs on all rural reserves where camping is permitted, except at Te Awaiti Recreation Reserve where campers may have up to two dogs per campsite.

4.1.11 Firearms and Hunting

- 1) The use of firearms in the reserves is prohibited except for management purposes authorised by the Council.

4.1.12 Recreation Monitoring

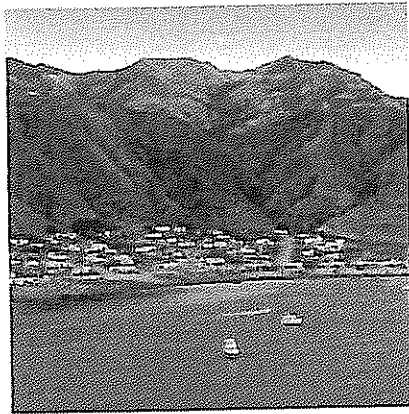
- 1) The impact from recreational activity will be assessed from time to time.
- 2) The Council may modify or stop activities that cause environmental degradation or significant modification or nuisance, including nuisance to adjoining properties.
- 3) The Council may appoint rangers to monitor impacts on the coastal reserves particularly over the Christmas period. The rangers will be officially recognised, formerly appointed, given training and acknowledged for their work.

Explanation:

Rangers assist in ensuring public enjoyment of the reserves and adjacent areas while monitoring their impact on the environment and facilities and services.

The following table provides a summary of the Rural Reserves Management Plan (RRMP) for each of the Rural Reserves owned by the South Wairarapa District Council. The table is divided into two main sections: 'Rural Reserves' and 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown'. The 'Rural Reserves' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The table is as follows:

Rural Reserves	Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown
<p>1. Rural Reserves</p> <p>The following table provides a summary of the Rural Reserves Management Plan (RRMP) for each of the Rural Reserves owned by the South Wairarapa District Council. The table is divided into two main sections: 'Rural Reserves' and 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown'. The 'Rural Reserves' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The table is as follows:</p>	<p>2. Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown</p> <p>The following table provides a summary of the Rural Reserves Management Plan (RRMP) for each of the Rural Reserves owned by the South Wairarapa District Council. The table is divided into two main sections: 'Rural Reserves' and 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown'. The 'Rural Reserves' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The 'Rural Reserves in the process of being transferred to the Crown' section lists the name of the reserve, its location, its area in hectares, and the date of the RRMP. The table is as follows:</p>



Management

Administration

Maintenance

Development

Visitor health and safety

Information and interpretation

5. Administration

5.1 POLICIES

5.1.1 Bylaws

- 1) The New Zealand Standard 9201: Model General Bylaws 1999: *Chapter 2 Public Places* will be applied in the management of the Council's reserves (refer Appendix 5).
- 2) The Council will review the standard set of bylaws for its own purposes and to give effect to the Deed of Management for Te Awaiti Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserves agreed between the Crown, Council and the Riddifords (refer Appendix 6 for copy of Deed of Agreement).
- 3) The Council will liaise with other public land administering agencies with reserves in the area to integrate and make consistent bylaws for reserves in the District (refer Policy 10.1.1).

Explanation:

Bylaws are considered necessary to provide controls over visitor activity and behaviour and to ensure visitor safety and the protection of reserve resources. The Council is empowered to prepare and enforce bylaws under the terms of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Local Government Act 1974 sets out the process for the adoption and consultation of bylaws that are to be followed at the time of establishing the bylaws.

5.1.2 Classification

- 1) All reserves will be classified and maintained in line with the intentions and purposes of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 2) The boundaries of the reserves will be maintained and no encroachments will be permitted.

5.1.3 Other Lands Coming Under This Plan

- 1) Accreted land adjacent to the reserves comes under the policies of this plan.

Explanation:

As a result of natural accretion there may be some land on the foreshore of the coastal and lake reserves adjacent to the reserve boundaries. An example of accreted land is on the southern side of

Lake Ferry Reserve. Further research and surveys may be needed to establish exact land areas and boundaries.

Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve – Road Designations

- 1) The road designations adjacent to Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve will be stopped and the land will become part of the Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve.

5.1.4 Funding

- 1) Funding for maintenance programmes, ongoing protection, development and enhancement programmes will be identified in the Long Term Financial Strategy and the Annual Plan.
- 2) All programmes will be prioritised and funded when opportunity allows.
- 3) Alternative sources of funding (other than rates) and other means of implementing programmes will also be considered.

5.1.5 Land Management

- 1) Issues affecting land management responsibilities shall be resolved with affected parties. The following areas and issues will be given priority:

Land Management Issues

Figure 3

Area	Issue to be resolved
Awhea Recreation Area	Formalising public access arrangements on private land
Sandy Bay Recreation Area	Formalising public access arrangements on private land
East-West Recreation Area	WRC arranging formal transfer of management to the Council
Whakapuni Hill Reserve	Establishing significance of native orchids for classification purposes
White Rock Picnic Area	DoC classifying reserve and arranging formal transfer of management to the Council

- 3) The Council will endeavour to formalise existing public access arrangements affecting reserve areas with private landowners.
- 4) The policies in this Management Plan will apply to private land used for recreational purposes where formal agreements have been entered into with private landowners to continue public access as set out in the Reserves Act 1977. These include Awhea and Sandy Bay.
- 5) Land requiring classification or re-classification, and used for conservation or recreational purposes as identified above, will be included in this Management Plan once matters are resolved.
- 6) The Council will continue to talk with private landowners about formalising access to sites adjacent to and/or affecting existing reserves where these have significant recreational opportunities.

Explanation:

The Council also needs to formalise access where this has a significant affect on private land. This can include areas where there is a mix of road reserve, marginal strip, accreted land and private land. Small portions of private land can lie between the road and the coastline where there is a gap between the seaward side of the road and the marginal strip along the coast. There are also areas where there is demand for public access due to positioning of a particular site in relation to the sea and the road and the recreational opportunities afforded in that area.

5.1.6 Management Plan Review

- 1) The Management Plan will be fully reviewed at five yearly intervals.
- 2) Alterations and additions may be made from time to time to reflect changing circumstances with respect to reserve management and development.
- 3) Any proposed alterations or additions to the management plan will be publicly notified in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

5.1.7 Concessions – Leases, Licenses and Permits

- 1) Recreation groups and community organisations requiring exclusive use of a reserve or part of a reserve must apply to the Council and may be required to have an agreement.

- 2) A licence is required for any commercial activities.
- 3) A lease, licence or permit is required for the occupation of any reserve land by a public utility.

Explanation:

Generally all reserves are publicly accessible. However, from time to time, the Council may grant leases and licences for commercial activities, recreation events, grazing and planting and other purposes as set out in the Reserves Act 1977 in which case public access may be restricted. The First Schedule of the Act sets out the basic provisions applicable to leases or licences for Recreation Reserves and Scenic Reserves. A schedule of existing leases and grazing rights is included in Appendix 2 – Schedule of Rural Reserves Property Details.

Leases and licences are contractual agreements made between the Council and groups using facilities or land on a Council reserve. The responsibilities of both the Council and the lessee or licensee should be clearly stated in the lease or licence agreement. A clear statement of responsibilities ensures that the lessee or licensee knows exactly what the Council considers to be acceptable use of and behaviour on the land or facilities. The Council will develop guidelines for leases, licences or permits.

- 4) Any commercial activities or other activities that may restrict open public access to the reserves for a limited time and benefit the use and enjoyment of the park, such as the use of a reserve as a film location, may be approved provided that they do not conflict with the objectives of this Management Plan.
- 5) The Council may permit commercial activities on a reserve where an appropriate lease agreement is in place and the activity does not threaten the conservation values and is complementary to the recreational use of the reserve.
- 6) The organising group hiring the reserve will be responsible for ensuring the reserve is left in the state it was in prior to using the site.

5.1.8 User Charges

- 1) Entry to the reserves is free.
- 2) Charges will be made for the following:
 - Grazing, commercial recreation operations and concessions

- Use of the reserves for commercial activities (e.g. filming)
 - Camping and campervans
 - Rights of way, other easements, utilities and communication stations
- 3) Charges may be made for the following:
- Scientific research programmes carried out for commercial purposes
 - Special events
 - Bookings for club and group activities
 - Group camping and events
- 4) The Council will set its charges for use of the reserves, camping fees and facilities for events and functions and other activities in the reserves through the Annual Planning process, where issues of fairness and equity are given full consideration.

Explanation:

Reserves are accessible to the community at most times. However, there may be times when the reserves are required for other purposes including commercial recreational activities, filming, weddings and events. The Council should charge for the use of the reserves for activities other than day-to-day public recreational activities as a contribution towards reserve management costs.

5.1.9 Grazing

- 1) The Council will carefully consider the potential impacts of grazing in every application for a grazing licence, authorise only those with acceptable levels of impact and minimise impacts by placing special conditions on each licence.
- 2) The Council will grant new grazing rights and re-issue existing rights only if grazing is beneficial to the management of the reserve, or where it is required for other specific management purposes.
- 3) Stock grazing may be permitted in grassed areas only but must be securely contained.

- 4) A market rent will be charged for all grazing licences unless a lower rent will derive a net conservation benefit.
- 5) The Council may terminate a grazing licence where there is any adverse impact on the reserve.

Explanation:

Grazing of domestic stock can be a useful management tool to reduce exotic plant growth, but uncontrolled or inappropriate grazing can destroy or degrade natural, historical or archaeological resources. Grazing leases may be issued for maintenance purposes in some areas. However, areas may also be set aside for hay or other such purposes as a means of maintaining large areas during off-season periods.

Grazing applications will be in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, which establishes what classes of land may have grazing licences issued over them, the length of licences, and procedures for public notification of the intentions to issue a grazing licence.

5.1.10 Utilities (Rights of Way, Other Easements and Communication Stations)

- 1) All new utilities or replacement of existing utilities shall only be located on reserves and other areas coming under this management plan where there is no alternative location on any other site.
- 2) No new utilities will be located on reserves on the coastal side of the road.
- 3) Where it is necessary to have services located above ground, the design and location should be sympathetic to the natural, cultural or landscape features of the reserve and not impact on the area available for recreational use.
- 4) Applications for the construction of public utilities on the reserves must be accompanied by a comprehensive environmental assessment that must be publicly notified for comment under this plan.
- 5) Any approval given for a public utility on a reserve shall be conditional upon the Council being empowered to:
 - enter, inspect, require maintenance or upgrading
 - approve designs and colour schemes for all structures

- require the restoration of sites after the completion of work
- require sites be cleaned up, cared for and superfluous material removed

Explanation:

From time to time, where there is no other reasonable alternative, it may be necessary for rights of way, other easements or communication stations to be placed on, over or through reserves. In such circumstances, they will be placed in as unobtrusive a manner as possible so that there is minimal impact on the functioning and amenity values of the reserve.

Sections 166-186 of the RMA enable a designating authority or network utility operator to place designations on parts of a reserve to enable construction of a network utility. The RMA defines the types of utilities and sets out the requirements for public notification of the proposed work, consideration of alternative sites, assessment of impacts on the site and measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

6. Maintenance

6.1 POLICIES

6.1.1 Standards and Service Delivery

- 1) A grading system will be established for the rural reserves as a means of allocating resources and maintenance priorities.
- 2) The Council will review quality standards and performance measures to ensure appropriate maintenance levels are established for the reserves.
- 3) The types and levels of service for each reserve will be reviewed and services will be targeted according to level of use and the priorities established by the grading system. The system will be part of the AMP.
- 4) The AMP and the Council's Reserves Contract Agreement will be reviewed to ensure that it is in accordance with the Management Plan.
- 5) The Council will identify any maintenance and other activities that can be carried out by the community that extends beyond the basic service levels provided by the Council. Any maintenance work carried out by the community will be done within an agreed framework.

- 6) Reserves that are heavily used will be serviced with toilets, water, carparks, formal access, information and signs.
- 7) The AMP database will be maintained to keep an update of all of the reserves including hard and soft assets.

Explanation:

The Draft Management Plan provides policies on management, development and planning for reserves and the AMP provides the operational details and should be in accordance with the Management Plan.

The Council has established an AMP under the requirements of the Local Government Act 1974 that provides for general maintenance standards but this requires ongoing development and improvement. Reserves in the following areas have been identified as requiring full-servicing: Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve, Tora Recreation Reserves, Te Awaitei Recreation Reserves, Ngawi Coastal Recreation Reserve, Palliser Road Road-End Carpark, Mangatoetoe and Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserves. Other reserves may have limited services provided.

7. Development

7.1 POLICIES

7.1.1 Facilities, Buildings and Structures

- 1) The reserves will be developed according to level of use and visitor needs.
- 2) All reserves will be assessed for provision and adequacy of facilities.
- 3) Development/Improvements Plans will be established to improve the amenity, use, and enjoyment of existing high profile reserves and areas such as Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve, Whatarangi Coastal Recreation Reserve, Ngawi Coastal Recreation Reserve, Mangatoetoe Coastal Recreation Reserve, Te Awaitei Recreation Reserve and East-West Recreation Area and to protect and enhance their natural and cultural resources and landscape features.
- 4) Provision will be made for addressing vehicle access at the Whangaimoana Road-End area. (See 4.1.2 pedestrian and vehicle access).

- 5) New buildings and facilities will be kept to a minimum and their design will reflect the reserves, natural character and setting and will be in keeping with its classification, primary use and location.
- 6) Buildings and other structures (e.g. toilets, picnic facilities and shelters) will be limited to those necessary for reserve management and associated with and required for use of the reserve in line with its classification.
- 7) Buildings or facilities will be limited on the coastal side of the road to only those that are essential for good management of the area. Buildings will be located on the landward side of the road and within settlement areas where possible.
- 8) The Council will prepare Development Concept Plans for new reserves prior to any development proceeding.
- 9) Development and Landscape Plans will be required for new facilities proposed by user groups prior to any construction work and will include an assessment of the effects of any new building or structure on the reserve's environment and use, and be submitted to the Council for approval.
- 10) Development Plans will be publicly notified and local communities and interest groups consulted in their preparation.
- 11) Buildings and structures will conform to best practice standards.
- 12) Children's play equipment will comply with current safety standards.
- 13) Seating, picnic-tables, shelters and other complementary facilities will be provided where there is a recognised demand and they can be maintained to a fair standard.
- 14) The design of furniture for the reserves will be standardised to assist the unified identity of the reserves and shall be of a design that is functionally and visually appropriate to the type of reserve and its surroundings.
- 15) Fences and barriers may be erected where appropriate for the control and management of a reserve.

- 16) A standards design manual may be established for the provision of signs, park furniture, information boards, barriers, fences and shelters.

Explanation:

The development of the rural reserves is critical to their use and enjoyment and must be done in a manner that is appropriate to the character and use of a reserve. Facilities should be robust in their construction and aesthetically pleasing.

Tora Coast Reserves

- 1) A Development Concept Plan will be prepared for all the Tora reserves and provide for camping and picnic facilities, access to the beach, carparking, protection of natural, cultural and landscape features, information, signs, and amenity.
- 2) A centralized servicing area including toilets, information and rubbish collection will be considered at the Tora/Te Awaiti road junction area.

7.1.2 Toilets

- 1) Existing toilets will be assessed for need and whether they meet current environmental standards. This includes toilets maintained by the Council but not on Council reserves, such as the toilets at East-West Recreation Area, Lake Ferry River Mouth, and White Rock Picnic Area.
- 2) Where new toilets are installed or existing toilets upgraded they will be built and operated to recognised, environmentally sound standards.
- 3) Toilets, while needing to be noticeable, will be placed in areas where they do not visually impair views. Where existing toilets are in breach of this they will be repositioned as funding allows. In the case of isolated reserves where there is no alternative, such as at Te Humenga, remedial landscape work will be carried out.
- 4) Organisers of group camping and large group events may be required to supplement permanent toilet facilities with their own portable toilet facilities.

Explanation:

Daily visitors comprise the majority of users requiring toilet facilities. As visitor numbers increase at popular reserves toilet facilities may need to be introduced or existing ones upgraded and expanded to meet health and environmental standards and be attractive to visitors to the area.

8. Visitor Health and Safety

8.1 POLICIES

8.1.1 Sanitary

- 1) Appropriate sewage and grey-water disposal will be provided at reserves with toilet and water facilities. They will be designed and sited to protect waterways.
- 2) Toilets will be monitored to ensure there is no possibility of leachate entering water catchments.

Explanation:

There is a growing awareness of disease risks caused by organisms such as giardia and cryptosporidium. With increasing visitor numbers, especially camping, there is an increased risk both to the environment and visitor health and safety. Therefore water quality needs to be protected and in some areas improved. The location, type and standards of toilets are important for protecting water quality.

8.1.2 Rubbish

- 1) A 'take home' policy for rubbish will be adopted.
- 2) Provision for rubbish removal in intensively used camping areas will be provided over heavy-use periods.
- 3) Signage and information will be used to educate people to look after their own rubbish.
- 4) On-site litter will be monitored (and dealt with accordingly).
- 5) Where rubbish receptacles are provided these will be cleared regularly.

Explanation:

A 'take home' litter policy will be promoted to encourage responsible litter management by day visitors to the reserves. While some back up is necessary to collect loose litter this approach is more cost

effective and avoids providing and maintaining rubbish bins along with the associated abuse from domestic litter. This will be phased in over the next three years. The 'take home' litter policy will be monitored to assess its effectiveness.

- 6) Dumping of rubbish, litter and spoil on reserves is illegal and offenders will be prosecuted.

Explanation:

Currently rural reserves are used for dumping rubbish and spoil. It is a high priority that this activity be stopped to protect the coastal environment and improve its amenity and scenic value.

8.1.3 Water

- 1) The Council will provide potable drinking water or notices to explain that water should be treated on those reserves where water is available.

8.1.4 Hazards

- 1) The Council will identify natural and other hazards affecting reserves and take appropriate precautions to minimise risks through the provision of information.

8.1.5 Pesticides

- 1) The Council will provide for the safe use of pesticides and other chemicals used in its management operations.

8.1.6 Search and Rescue

- 1) The Council will continue to assist and co-operate with search and rescue and other authorities having responsibilities for public health and safety.

8.1.7 Commercial Use

- 1) All leases, licences or permits for commercial users in the reserves will make it clear that they are to be responsible for the safety of their activities and their clients, and the appropriate use of facilities by themselves and their clients to protect public health and safety.

9. Information and Interpretation

9.1 POLICIES

9.1.1 Information and Interpretation

- 1) A database will be maintained of individual reserve resources, features, facilities and uses.
- 2) Promotional material identifying reserves and their features and the activities available will be developed in conjunction with other interested agencies and parties for distribution to ratepayers and visitors to the District.
- 3) Priority will be given to producing a master brochure covering the Council's key rural reserves to promote their natural and cultural heritage features and their recreational opportunities.
- 4) On-site interpretation of natural and cultural resources and landscape features will be provided at appropriate locations. Priority will be given to the Tora Recreation Reserves, Palliser Road Road-End Carpark and Lake Ferry Recreation Reserve.
- 5) Interpretative material will represent both European and Maori interpretations of the features and values of the area.
- 6) Information provided will be bilingual where appropriate.
- 7) The New Zealand Environmental Care Code, which provides guidelines for visitors on protecting the natural environment, will be promoted.
- 8) Camping guidelines will be developed and included in relevant promotional material and on-site information.
- 9) The Council will liaise with DoC and the WRC to standardise information used in the reserves.

Explanation:

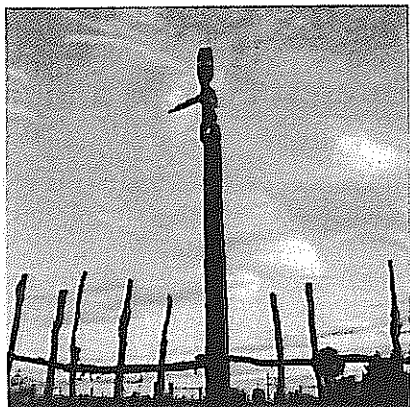
The rural reserves offer a variety of recreational opportunities within a coastal environment and are not widely known. The development of a brochure covering some of the key reserves is a priority. Palliser Road Road-End Carpark (while not a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977) has been identified as a high priority area for visitor

information due to its proximity to the Cape Palliser lighthouse and the Matakitaki-A-Kupe Historic Area.

9.1.2 Signs

- 1) The use of signs will be kept to a minimum but will be consistent with the need to provide visitor information and interpretation about facilities and features of the reserve and to help promote public safety and enjoyment.
- 2) Wherever possible, signs shall be of consistent design and be kept to a practicable and appropriate size.
- 3) Design guidelines will be established for signs (refer Policy 7.1.1).
- 4) All of the rural reserves will be clearly identified and signposted and high profile reserves will be signposted from the rural townships and main highways.
- 5) Signs affecting public access to private land, road reserves and marginal strips will be consistent with those for the Council's reserves.

1. The Council has a duty to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the reserves under its control.
2. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Resource Management Act 1991.
3. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Conservation Act 1986.
4. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Wildlife Act 1953.
5. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Fisheries Act 1983.
6. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Forest Act 1949.
7. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Soil Conservation Act 1931.
8. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Water Act 1968.
9. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Electricity Act 1982.
10. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Land Act 1948.
11. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1951.
12. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1963.
13. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1977.
14. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1981.
15. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1985.
16. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1989.
17. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1993.
18. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 1997.
19. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2001.
20. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2005.
21. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2009.
22. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2013.
23. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2017.
24. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2021.
25. The Council has a duty to ensure that the reserves are managed in a way that is consistent with the principles of the Public Works Act 2025.



Stakeholders

Statutory and Non-Statutory Interest Groups and the Community

10. Statutory and Non-Statutory Interest Groups and the Community

10.1 POLICIES

10.1.1 Other Agencies and Organisations

- 1) The Council will liaise with other land administering agencies on matters affecting the reserves network.
- 2) The Council will work with DoC and the WRC to:
 - Increase recreational opportunities on other lands and to spread recreational activities across all parks, reserves and other lands in the District in order to reduce impacts on sensitive areas
 - Manage district-wide recreational issues such as 4x4 wheel drive vehicles and trail bikes.
- 3) The Council will consult with the NZHPT on any activities that are likely to disturb or impact upon cultural heritage resources, for example archaeological sites and historic structures.
- 4) The Council will work with other non-government organisations towards the betterment of the reserves.

Explanation:

Where the Council works alongside other territorial authorities, DoC and other government and non-government agencies, such as Forest and Bird, and sports clubs, it will avoid unnecessary duplication of recreational opportunities, manage impacts on the environment and increase recreational opportunities.

10.1.2 Private Landowners

- 1) The Council will maintain ongoing dialogue with landowners whose land is affected by public access, either formal or informal, to promote recreational opportunities and ensure effective management of reserves.
- 2) The Council will provide assistance to the owners of private land adjoining the reserves, where a formal agreement has been entered into,

who wish to develop recreational access to their land if it complements the activities provided by the adjacent Council reserves and as funding permits.

Explanation:

The rural reserves provide opportunities for adjoining landowners to develop recreation ventures that complement those of the Council such as camping and walkways. While such ventures on private land are outside the policies and controls of the Draft Management Plan, the Council supports them in principle where they enhance public enjoyment of the Council's reserves and the District generally.

10.1.3 Tangata Whenua

- 1) The Council will recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga, in the management of the reserves.
- 2) The Council will consult with iwi and hapu on any activities that are likely to disturb or impact on sites of cultural significance on reserve land including:
 - Development of pest and weed eradication plans and native revegetation plans
 - Fencing
 - Sewage disposal / toilet facilities
 - Development of facilities and provision of services
 - Identification, research and protection of cultural heritage sites on the reserves
 - Information and signage
 - Bylaws and management plans

10.1.4 The Community

- 1) The Council will encourage community participation in the planning, maintenance, management and development of reserves.

- 2) The Council will establish partnerships with communities for the management and development of reserves particularly at settlements such as Lake Ferry, Whatarangi, Ngawi, Mangatoetoe and Tora.
- 3) As part of developing partnerships, the Council will establish agreements on roles and responsibilities to ensure effective management and development of reserves.
- 4) The Council will consult with the community on the preparation of any Development/Improvement Plans for the reserves.
- 5) The community will be encouraged to access funding and other support from sources outside of the Council in the development of recreational facilities and other reserve activities, e.g. planting programmes.

Explanation:

Community support is integral to the successful management of the reserves. The Council needs to identify the level of maintenance it is responsible for in its reserves and also areas where the community can be encouraged to take responsibility, for example; maintaining revegetation programmes. Revegetation projects and weed eradication programmes are long term and to be effective need support from the community to ensure their success.

Glossary of Terms

Amenity Planting Plan: broadly defines planting areas, establishes planting themes appropriate to the character and purpose of a reserve, uses a mixture of native and exotic plantings, specifies species locations and species type, and creates attractive plant groupings.

Amenity values: those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

Archaeological site: any place, including shipwrecks, which was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 AD, and which through investigation by archaeological techniques may provide scientific, cultural, or historical evidence 'on' (or 'about') the exploration, occupation, settlement, or development of New Zealand. (*Historic Places Act 1993*).

Coastal Protection Policy Area: includes the coastal margin of the area. The margin may vary according to topography, property boundaries and natural features. The coastal settlements are not included in the Coastal Protection Policy Area i.e. Mangatoetoe, Whatarangi, Ngawi. (Section 5.5.3 South Wairarapa District Plan, 1998).

Cultural heritage sites: include archaeological sites; traditional sites; historic buildings, sites, and objects; historic trees and areas.

Cultural resources: include cultural heritage sites, traditional sites, and waahi tapu sites.

Detailed drawings: state the dimensions and construction requirements to develop specific facilities (buildings and areas).

Development Concept Plan: outlines in broad terms development of an undeveloped reserve or area and covers such matters as the definition of spaces and areas for protection and use, and defines the nature of the facilities associated with these spaces.

Development/Improvement Plan: establishes a clear vision for a reserve, creates cohesion and integrates the different park areas, and provides appropriate levels of services and facilities.

Development and Landscape Plan: is required by agencies wishing to site utilities on a reserve and includes the nature of the development proposed and the associated landscaping to ameliorate effects.

Eco-sourced species: species or genetic variants of native plants found in a particular locality.

Environment: includes –

- a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
- and

b) all natural and physical resources; and

c) amenity values; and

the social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions which effect the conditions stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

Foreshore: all land lying between the high-water mark of the sea at ordinary spring tides and its low water mark at ordinary spring tides.

Hapu: Sub-tribe. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report [Wai27] 1991*)

Indigenous vegetation: species or genetic variants of plants found naturally in New Zealand.

Iwi: tribe, people. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report [Wai27] 1991*)

Landscape features: include clearly distinct physical features that are a component part of a reserve, e.g. stream, hill, cliff face, etc.

Landscape Plan: addresses in detail the issues of aesthetics and design particularly relating to facilities and structures and plantings on a reserve.

Limited facility camping: camping sites where facilities are limited to toilets and tap water.

Native Revegetation Plan: native vegetation means any species or genetic variants of plants found naturally in New Zealand. Native revegetation plans will take into account the use of local gene stock and local species to protect and enhance the identity of the local natural heritage. (*South Wairarapa District Plan p 254*)

Natural features: include features on a reserve that are part of nature and may include individual plant or tree specimens and ecosystems that by their nature require special care and attention for their preservation.

Natural resources: include plants and animals and their habitats, landscape and landforms, geological features, and systems of interacting living organisms, and their environment. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

Pest and Weed Eradication Plan: plan or programme to eliminate wild animals that damage the natural environment including goats, possums, rabbits, hares, wild cats and dogs and noxious plants as identified under the Noxious Plants Act 1978, s.4, as well as invasive weeds that are threatening the ecological health or amenity planting of an area.

Planting programmes: define the area, species of plants, planting techniques and timing for revegetating or improving the amenity of an area.

Reserves network: includes all the Council's parks and reserves in the rural and urban areas such as the coastal reserves, native bush areas and sportsgrounds.

Self-contained camping: includes caravaners and tenters who provide their own sewage disposal (chemical toilets), rubbish disposal and drinking water.

Taiapure: an area established under the Fisheries Act 1985 as an area of estuarine or coastal water of special significance to any iwi or hapu, either as a source of food

or for spiritual or cultural reasons, and administered for the conservation of fish, aquatic life and seaweed. (*Department of Conservation, 1996*)

Traditional site: a place or site that is important by reason of its historical significance or spiritual or emotional associations with Maori.

Visitor Health and Safety Plan: identifies situations requiring emergency services and ensures access is generally available and organisers are aware of responsibilities for maintaining that access.

Waahi tapu: sacred place. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report [Wai27] 1991*). A place sacred to Maori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual, or mythological sense. (*Historic Places Act 1993*)

Walk-in camping: camping areas accessible by foot only and where no facilities (including toilets or water) are provided. A maximum stay of two days is allowed. Campers must take responsibility for disposal of waste and removal of rubbish.

Wildlife habitat: the environment in which a group of animal species lives.

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